

**Lake Michigan Fisheries Team  
Tuesday, March 7, 2006  
DNR Service Center  
1155 Pilgrim Rd., Plymouth**

**Draft Notes –prepared by Bill Horns**

- 1. Review/revise/cull agenda**
- 2. Review/approve meeting notes from January 26, 2006**
- 3. Brief updates**

Time was taken for short updates and reminders of topics of interest.

- Cormorant control and/or research in 2006.
- Communicating new Green Bay yellow perch bag limits (FH-27-05) to the fishing public.

These will be in effect by May 20, but are not in the new rules pamphlet.

- Matt et al. will work on a press release and notices for posting to inform the public.

- UWM/DNR yellow perch cooperation in Green Bay (Fred Binkowski).

- Matt will prepare summary presentation for an unspecified future meeting

➤ FH-34-01, adopted in 2002, reduced the minimum depths for chub nets set during winter and spring. On July 1, 2007, the minimum depths will revert to the previous limits unless the rules are changed. Commercial fishers have requested extension of the current depth limits beyond that date.

- I will circulate a copy of FH-34-01 to LMFT core members. If the rule is to be extended, a new rule should be initiated by July 1, 2006.

- 4. Yellow perch**

Background. John Netto has completed updating the statistical catch at age model for Green Bay yellow perch. He attended the meeting to present and discuss the results, and to interpret the latest cormorant diet study data in terms of the perch model.

Action. Discussion

- 5. Project ideas for new NRDA settlement funds.**

Background. By a new Consent Decree involving the NCR and Arjo Wiggins companies, \$5M is available for projects. Mike Staggs has asked that the identification of potential habitat projects be a major agenda item at our meeting. Projects must be pursuant to the Joint Restoration Plan:

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/foxrivernepa/index2.html>.

Action. We reviewed project ideas developed in 2003, and discussed other possibilities. The following list was developed for future consideration (suggested authors in parentheses):

- 1) Wild Rose SFH renovation phase 2 (full proposal in preparation – Al Kaas).
- 2) Great Lakes spotted musky restoration (project brief submitted in 2003, should be updated – Kevin Kapuscinski).
- 3) Strawberry Creek flow enhancement (project brief submitted in 2003, should be updated – Mark Opgenorth).
- 4) Keyes Creek land purchase to restore and protect fish habitat (pending, submitted by Mike Toneys in 2003).
- 5) Northern pike spawning habitat projects (project brief to be developed – Matt Mangan).
- 6) Sturgeon habitat in lower Menominee River (project brief to be developed – Mike Donofrio).
- 7) Suamico River backwater habitat restoration (project brief to be developed – Mike Donofrio).

8) Purchase and/or protect wetland habitat surrounding Strawberry Creek (project brief to be developed – Paul Peeters and Mark Opgenorth).

I will prepare a memo summarizing this for Mike Staggs. I am willing to assist anyone working on a project brief or proposal, but when completed those should go through supervisory chains to Greg Hill.

## **6. Lake trout**

Background. On December 20 I circulated a memo by e-mail suggesting a set of positions on lake trout restoration. Subsequently, I reviewed some ideas about negotiating, and I realized that, while those positions are reasonable, a better approach to negotiating an agreement in the LMC is to enter the process with a list of our interests, not our positions. This is consistent with an approach to negotiation known as “principled negotiation” that is espoused in the book Getting to Yes. See the following web site for a summary: [www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/example/fish7513.htm](http://www.colorado.edu/conflict/peace/example/fish7513.htm).

Action. 1) We discussed the positions suggested in my December 20 memo. There were questions, but I think there was general agreement. 2) We developed the following list of Wisconsin interests to be advanced in negotiations with the LMC:

- 1) A sport fishery for lean lake trout.
- 2) Natural reproduction by lean lake trout.
- 3) A multi-species sport fishery, including salmon and trout.
- 4) A multi-species forage base, including lake herring and bloater chubs.
- 5) A viable multi-species commercial fishery.

## **7. LMFT charge adjustments**

Background. With the appointment of new regional fisheries supervisors it was appropriate to review the LMFT charge. Specifically the question of who should comprise the Policy Committee required discussion. Currently the members are Horns, Eggold, Coffaro, Meyers, and Boronow.

Action. We agreed to recommend that the Policy Committee include the Great Lakes Fisheries Specialist (Horns), the two regional fisheries supervisors (Boronow and Schumacher), and the two Lake Michigan Technical Committee members (Peeters and Eggold). I will prepare an updated charge and send it to the Guidance Team (Staggs, Verhoeven, Krohn’s stand-in) for approval.

## **8. FY07 supplemental funding**

Background. Some additional funds are available to supplement existing projects or fund new projects in FY07. The amount of available money has not been specified. On March 15-16 the FH Board will consider proposals for allocating the funds. On November 16, 2005, the LMFT reviewed suggestions for additional Salmon Stamp funds, so our focus at this meeting can be on ideas for additional SEG money.

Action. We listed possible projects for supplemental funding, and identified authors. The authors are to prepare new or revised project write-ups following the standard format, and have those in my hands by close of business on Friday. I will compile a package for review by the FH Board next week. The project list follows. These are not ranked, but all the ones with Brad’s name on them were identified as having priority (!?).

- ✓ (Bill) Provide literature review and other needed background for a Scope of Work to be developed in support of upgrading the water supply at Kettle Moraine SFH.
- ✓ (Brad) Expand the creel survey to start earlier and end later.
- ✓ (Brad) Restore the creel survey to earlier levels.
- ✓ (Matt M) Northern pike habitat restoration and maintenance.
- ✓ (Mike) Provide a match for the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust grant.
- ✓ (Steve/Brad) Provide LTE support for streamside sturgeon rearing facilities.

- ✓ (Paul) Funding for fish marking studies, specifically fin clipping and follow-up costs of the lakewide OTC marking initiative.
- ✓ (Matt M) Yellow perch data entry.
- ✓ (Brad) Tournament monitoring.
- ✓ (Brad) Radar for Perca.
- ✓ (Pradeep) Supplemental funding for walleye predation studies in Milwaukee River.
- ✓ (Steve) Steelhead outmigration study.
- ✓ (Kevin) Green Bay nearshore fish assessments.
- ✓ (Kevin) Musky recruitment study.
- ✓ (Paul) Equipment for rapid weighing and measuring of fish at weirs.

## **9. 316b restoration projects**

Background. Steve Hogler has been approached by John Ney, a consultant for the Dominion Power, the operator of the Kewaunee Nuclear Power Plant regarding possible fisheries restoration projects that might be conducted in Lake Michigan in lieu of meeting entrainment standards. This is not the first, last, or only time the possibility of restoration project related to 316b permitting have or will be raised, so Steve suggested a general discussion of how to respond to these opportunities.

Action. Discussion

## **10. Fishing tournaments**

Background. Pat Schmalz is working on developing new fishing tournament regulations, and recently requested input from Great Lakes biologists. Paul Peeters suggested that this topic would benefit from a discussion by the LMFT. Pat plans to attend the meeting.

Action. Discussion

## **11. Sea Grant pre-proposals by Binkowski/Goetz**

Background. Fred Binkowski and Rick Goetz have developed pre-proposals for Sea Grant funding. They pertain to a) net-pen rearing of fish in the open lake and b) use of heated discharge from power plants for aquaculture. The net pen proposal involves experimental rearing of lake herring and yellow perch. The power plant proposal involves inland rearing of fish using water heated by a plant in SER or in the discharge area at the Port Washington power plant. Fred provided copies of the pre-proposals.

Action. Discussion. Fred welcomes any and all comments on the pre-proposals.

## **12. Green Bay trap nets**

Background. The Lake Michigan Integrated Fisheries Management Plan includes Tactic III.E.2.a: *Consider reopening the [May 20 – June 30] yellow perch trap net season with appropriate gear restrictions when the yellow perch population is sufficiently restored.* Mark Maricque has raised this issue with the LM Commercial Fishing Board. The issue was reviewed in a study by Cliff Kraft and in a Masters Thesis by Mike Coshun.

Action. Discussion. Matt Mangan will discuss issues related to gear specifications with Mark Maricque.

## **13. Next meeting date and location**

May 4, 2006 – DNR Service Center in Plymouth.